

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th January 1891.

CONTENTS:

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
The Lushai Chief Johansta... ..	23	Sir Charles Elliott and the Orissa Settlement ...	32
Petty wars in Beluchistan	ib.	The Lieutenant-Governor and the Orissa Settlement ...	ib.
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
(a)—Police—		Railway grievances	
The Barhatta police in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.	Roads in a village in the district of Burisal ...	33
Thefts at Ranigunge in the district of Burdwan ...	ib.	(h)—General—	
The Police Commission	ib.	The Tangail post-office in the Mymensingh district ...	ib.
Evidence before the Police Commission	ib.	III.—LEGISLATIVE.	
Evidence before the Police Commission	25	The smoke nuisance in Calcutta	
(b)—Working of the Courts—		... ..
A Deputy Magistrate of Bogra	26	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
A new Munsifi in Vikrampore	27	Nil.	
Trial of small suits by Honorary Judges	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
The Deputy Magistrate of Uluberia	ib.	Nil.	
(c)—Jails—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Nil.		The Census	
(d)—Education—		The Census in Sherepore in the Mymensingh district ...	
Mahomedan education	ib.	Sir John Edgar and Mr. Cotton	
Physical education for the people of India	28	The Congress	
Moral education of Hindu youths	ib.	The Congress and the people of the mofussil	
Government's expenditure on education	ib.	The Bayley Memorial Fund	
Text-books for the Middle-Scholarship Examination, 1893	29	The Census proceedings in the district of Burdwan ...	
The University examination fees	ib.	The last Congress	
Text-books for schools	ib.	The <i>Englishman</i> newspaper's attack on Sir Steuart Bayley ...	
Primary education in the district of Pubna	ib.	Mr. Caine on child marriage	
The University election	ib.	The Census	
The University election	ib.	The Bengal Government and the Congress	
English education	30	Government and the Congress	
Urdu-teaching for Mussulman students	ib.	An act of Sir Charles Elliott's mercy	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Census Enumerators and Superintendents	
Mahomedans in the late municipal elections ...	31	The Congress and its detractors	
The late municipal election in Kushtea	ib.	The circular about Government officers and the Congress ...	
The late municipal election in Tangail in the Mymensingh district	ib.	Sir Charles Elliott	
Nomination of Commissioners for the Burdwan Municipality	32	The Congress	
The last municipal election at Santipore	ib.		
Municipal mismanagement at Konnagar within the Serampore sub-division of the Hughli district ...	ib.		
The Municipal election at Kasipur in the district of Burisal	ib.		

	Page.
The last Congress ...	39
An act of Sir Charles Elliott's kindness ...	41
Feyer in Hakama in Assam ...	ib.
Leopards in the Barasat sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs ...	ib.
Cholera in a village in Tipperah ...	42
Leopards in a village in the 24-Pergunnahs ...	ib.
Cholera in the Nattore sub-division of the Rajshahye district ...	ib.
Free trade ...	ib.
The Congress's demand for elective councils ...	ib.
The Bancoorah disturbances ...	43
The New Year's Day honours ...	ib.
The Government and Native Editors ...	ib.
English policy in India ...	44
Cholera and scarcity of water in the district of Backergunge ...	ib.

URIYA PAPERS.

Nil.

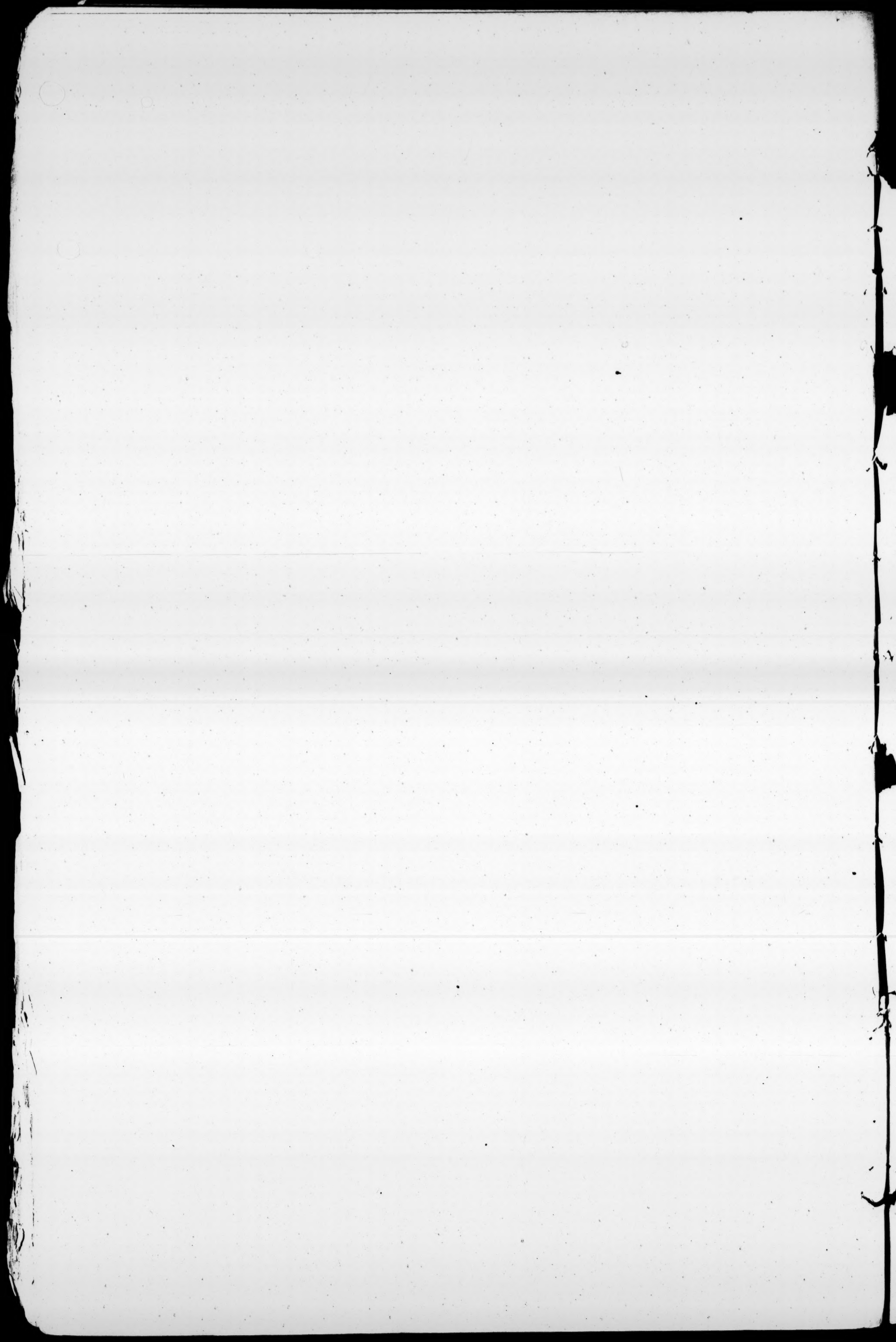
ASSAM PAPERS.

The Sylhet Hindu Dhurma Sabha on the Age of Consent ...	44
Baboo Rajmohan De, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Nowgong, Assam ...	45
The begar system in connection with the Lushai Expedition ...	ib.
Sylhet prisoners on the Changsil road in the Lushai country ...	ib.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.					
Fortnightly.					
1	"Ahammadi"	...	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	29th December 1890. Second fortnight of Agrahayan and the first fortnight of Pous 1297 B.E. 29th December 1890.
2	"Hitakari"	...	Kushtea	30	
3	"Kasipore Nibási"	...	Kasipore, Burrisal	.....
4	"Navamihir"	...	Ghatail, Mymensingh	.....
5	"Sahayogi"	...	Burrisal	.....
6	"Uluberia Darpan"	...	Uluberia	.....
Weekly.					
7	"Arya Darpan"	...	Calcutta	102	3rd January 1891.
8	"Bangavási"	...	Ditto	20,000	
9	"Banganibási"	...	Ditto	.....
10	"Burdwán Sanjivani"	...	Burdwan	302	30th December 1890.
11	"Cháruvártá"	...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	29th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakásh"	...	Dacca	1,200	4th January 1891.
13	"Education Gazette"	...	Hooghly	885	2nd ditto.
14	"Gramvásí"	...	Ramkristopore, Howrah	800	5th ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjiká"	...	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	2nd ditto.
16	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	...	Berhampore	.....
17	"Navayuga"	...	Calcutta	.....
18	"Pratikár"	...	Berhampore	600	1st ditto.
19	"Rungpore Dikprakásh"	...	Kakinia, Rungpore	.....	31st December 1890.
20	"Sahachar"	...	Calcutta	500	30th ditto.
21	"Sakti"	...	Dacca	.....	4th January 1891.
22	"Samáj-o-Sáhitya"	...	Garibpore, Nuddea	.....	2nd ditto.
23	"Samaya"	...	Calcutta	3,806	3rd ditto.
24	"Sanjivani"	...	Ditto	4,000	24th December 1890.
25	"Sansodhini"	...	Chittagong	.....	3rd January 1891.
26	"Saráswat Patra"	...	Dacca	300	5th ditto.
27	"Som Prakásh"	...	Calcutta	1,000	26th December 1890 and 2nd January 1891.
28	"Sudhákár"	...	Ditto	2,580	27th December 1890 and 3rd January 1891.
29	"Sulabh Samvád"	...	Ditto	.....	2nd & 5th January 1891.
30	"Surabhi-o-Patáká"	...	Ditto	700	
Daily.					
31	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	...	Calcutta	500	1st to 8th ditto.
32	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	...	Ditto	.....	1st & 4th to 7th January 1891.
33	"Dainik o Samáchar Chandriká"	...	Ditto	1,500	6th and 7th January 1891.
34	"Samvád Prabhákár"	...	Ditto	800	1st to 3rd, 5th, 7th & 8th January 1891.
35	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	...	Ditto	300	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.					
Weekly.					
36	"Dacca Gazette"	...	Dacca	.....	29th December 1890 and 5th January 1891.

No.	Names of newspapers.		Place of publication.		Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
	HINDI.					
	<i>Monthly.</i>					
37	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samáchar Patrika."		Darjeeling	...	20	
38	"Kshatriya Patriká"		Patna	...	200	
	<i>Weekly.</i>					
39	"Aryávarta"		Calcutta	...	800	3rd January 1891. 30th December 1890. 1st January 1891.
40	"Behar Bandhu"		Bankipore	...	.....
41	"Bhárat Mitra"		Calcutta	...	1,653	
42	"Champarun Chandrika"		Bettiah	...	.....
43	"Desí Vyápari"		Calcutta	...	.....
44	"Sár Sudhánidhi"		Ditto	...	500	
45	"Uchit Baktá"		Ditto	...	4,500	
	PERSIAN.					
	<i>Weekly.</i>					
46	"Jáum-Jahánomah"		Calcutta	...	250	
	URDU.					
	<i>Weekly.</i>					
47	"Aftal Alum Arrah"		Arrah	...	300	29th December 1890.
48	"Al Punch"		Bankipore	...	.....
49	"Anis"		Patna	...	.....
50	"Gauhur"		Calcutta	...	196	
51	"Raisul-Akhbari-Moorshidabad"		Murshidabad	...	.....	2nd January 1891.
52	"Urdu Guide and Darussaltanat"		Calcutta	...	340	
	URIYA.					
	<i>Monthly.</i>					
53	"Asha"		Cuttack	...	.....
54	"Pradíp"		Ditto	...	.....
55	"Samyabadi"		Ditto	...	.....
56	"Taraka and Subhavártá"		Ditto	...	.....
	<i>Weekly.</i>					
57	"Dipaka"		Cuttack	...	.....
58	"Samvad Váhika"		Balasore	...	205	
59	"Urya and Navasamvád"		Ditto	...	600	
60	"Utkal Dípiká"		Cuttack	...	444	
	PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.					
	BENGALI.					
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
61	"Paridarshak"		Sylhet	...	450	29th December 1890.
62	"Silchar"		Silchar	...	500	



I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sahachar*, of the 31st December, is for sparing the life of Johansta, the Lushai Chief, who is supposed to have murdered Lieutenant Stewart. The unfortunate man should be imprisoned for life.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 31st, 1890.

2. The same paper says that another little war is about to break out. This time the villages belonging to a small tribe in Beluchistan are to be burnt. How long will these little wars on the frontier continue to take place? Do Government and the Finance Minister know how these wars originate? The Civil and Military officers on the frontier get up these wars as a means of keeping themselves before the eyes of Government. On some pretext or other they send a few sepoy or grass-cutters into a village; these latter annoy the villagers by their insolence, and are therefore attacked by them. The Government is then asked to make war on the tribes for having taken the lives of Her Majesty's subjects. The sanction of Government is easily obtained and a war follows in the course of which some villages are burnt. Then comes a distribution of titles and medals in great profusion. These little wars are proving a great drain on the revenues of India. The occupation of Beluchistan will not be profitable to India. Is it not therefore advisable to let the Amir of Afghanistan rule the province?

SAHACHAR.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. One Ibrahim Khan of Tengapara in Mohangunge in the Mymensingh district writing to the *Sudhakar*, of the 26th December, says that the reason why the police officers of the Barhatta outpost frequently take up their quarters in Mohangunge is that wine and women are within easy reach of them in the latter place. These police officers have generally each a horse, which they let loose to stray at random. These animals do great injury to the crops in the fields in Tengapara. But their owners refuse to listen to the entreaties of the people to keep them tied.

SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1890.

On the 14th December last a ryot caught a horse, and on his refusing to make it over to the chowkidar who was sent to get it back, the latter returned with a lot of others and committed the greatest oppression on the ryot and the members of his household not excepting the female members.

4. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 30th December, says that theft has now become very prevalent at Ranigunge in the district of Burdwan, and several people have been robbed. The police are unable to trace the thieves, and one of the gentlemen who have been robbed has been insulted and abused by the head-constable of the local police for his giving information of the theft.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

5. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 4th January, says that at the 2nd January's sitting of the Police Commission, the question whether press reporters should be admitted to it was discussed, and it was at last decided that they should be admitted. This shows that the police has secrets which it does not like to disclose, or the Commission would not have been at first unwilling to admit reporters.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

6. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 6th January, thus reviews Babu Kunjalal Banerjee's evidence before the Police Commission:—

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 6th, 1891.

Evidence before the Police Commission.

1. The writer is glad with Babu Kunja-
all that the provisions of the Chowkidari Act have not been extended to

villages which do not contain more than 60 houses. But there are many villages where the number of inhabited houses does not exceed 20, and yet the Act has been extended to them. In such villages—villages which have been depopulated by malaria—a great many of the houses are uninhabited and the population consists chiefly of childless widows. The Commission ought to consider whether the extension of the Chowkidari Act to such villages does not entail great oppression on the villagers.

2. The writer approves of Babu Kunjalal's suggestion that the pay of the village chowkidar should nowhere be less than Rs. 5. The chowkidars are the principal agency in the preservation of the peace and it is therefore very desirable that their condition should be improved.

3. The writer has always said what Kunja Baboo has said on the subject of the deplorable condition of the Panchayet system.

4. The writer hopes with Baboo Kunjalal that increased pay to the chowkidar will have the effect of attracting a better class of men to serve as chowkidars. Again, there can be no doubt that, as Kunja Babu says, able and respectable men can be induced to serve on panchayets if the position and prestige of the panchayet are increased. The village people will be glad if the panchayets are allowed some power in the appointment of chowkidars. But the rulers of the country being foreigners, they will never, it is certain, approve of any measure which may have the effect of giving the people of the country any sort of control over the police.

5. Babu Kunjalal is for reviving the old system under which the chowkidars were under the control of the zemindars. But Government which wants to keep all the officers of police from the District Superintendent downwards under its direct control, is not likely to pay any heed to this part of his evidence.

6. The system of granting chakran lands to chowkidars was certainly open to no objection, nor can there be any doubt that the work of collecting the chowkidari revenue should be entrusted to panchayets. But as the officials of Government want to see the chowkidars under direct police control and independent of all control of the villagers, the evidence of hundreds of witnesses like Kunja Babu recommending the establishment of village control over the chowkidars will count for nothing with Government. The power of the panchayet cannot be increased without placing the chowkidars under their control. But Government will never even think of doing any such thing. Whether in the panchayets, or in the municipalities or in the District and Local Boards, all real power is in the hands of Government, and Government will never consent to part with even a portion of that power.

7. The writer fully approves of Baboo Kunjalal's proposal to increase the salaries of police officers. The constable should begin at Rs. 7 and get Rs. 9 as maximum. Where food articles are cheap, they may be paid Rs. 7, and where they are dear they may be paid Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 per month. So an average of Rs. 8 will suffice in all cases. Baboo Kunjalal has justly objected to the practice of cutting the pay of the constables for their uniforms. Niggardliness of this nature does not look well in a great Government. The writer agrees with Kunja Baboo in thinking that there should be no head-constables; and if head-constables there be, they should on no account be allowed to conduct criminal investigations. Educated Sub-Inspectors should be entrusted with that work.

8. The writer fully approves the statement of Kunja Baboo that Sub-Inspectors should commence with Rs. 60 and end with Rs. 100 per month. But mere increased pay will not make the Sub-Inspector's office attractive to men of education. Respectable men will not enter the police service if the defects which underlie it are not removed. One of these defects is that the

police must get up a case, no matter by what means. But increased salaries will nevertheless go some way towards reforming the police service.

9. The writer approves of Kunja Baboo's proposal that the salary of the Inspectors should range from Rs. 125 to Rs. 300. Government should also pay heed to his proposal that, as educated men are unwilling to enter the police service as head-constables, they should be induced to begin that service as Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors, and that immediately after their entering that service, they should be required to serve for some time as probationers.

10. The writer does not approve of Kunja Baboo's proposal that Inspectors of Police should be promoted to Deputy Magistrateships. It is not right to make men of one department serve in another. Provision should therefore be made for increasing the maximum pay of a police officer to Rs. 800 or Rs. 1,000. The writer approves of Baboo Kunjalal's proposal to abolish the Assistant Police Superintendentship.

7. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 7th January, thus comments on Baboo Kunjalal's evidence before the Police Commission on the working of the

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1891.

Evidence before the Police Commission.

Criminal Courts :—

1. The writer is sorry that Baboo Kunjalal has supported the official view that many criminals are acquitted through the fault of the Jury. But Baboo Kunjalal had to admit later on that there are many Judges who are anxious to acquit *asamis* in murder cases. In the opinion of many, however, it is these Judges who are the most conscientious of their lot. Again, a comparison of the number of acquittals in jury districts with that of acquittals in non-jury districts will prove the unsoundness of the view that the jury are in favour of acquittal. The head of the police is in favour of conviction, and the larger the number of convictions the more pleased he is. And as the Lieutenant-Governor must to a great extent rely on the report of the head of the police, he will naturally share the views of that official.

2. The officials of Government always express the regret that many accused persons are acquitted through the fault of the police, and Baboo Kunjalal has also expressed himself to that effect. But, as a matter of fact, persons really guilty of offences hardly escape through the fault of the police, and the police secures the conviction of innocent persons in a great many cases. The writer has learnt from experienced police officers themselves that the police does its best to secure the conviction of accused persons. The Official Secrets Act stands in the writer's way, or he would have stated who those police officers are.

3. Baboo Kunjalal's statement about the advisability of keeping judicial and executive functions separate has given general satisfaction.

4. The writer confirms Baboo Kunjalal's statement that many Magistrates want to make the Deputy Magistrates under them bare executors of their orders, and that many hot-headed young Magistrates often create difficulties by their uncalled for interference with the acts of the latter.

5. According to Baboo Kunjalal the Deputy Magistrates of the present day are equal to the Munsiffs in learning and intelligence. This they may be, but they are certainly not on the same level with the Munsiffs in judicial temper and ability. As a rule, the Munsiffs are free from the faults which are conspicuous in the Deputy Magistrates, who are, speaking generally, rash, restless, selfish, proud, and fond of power. These defects in the character of Deputy Magistrates are often developed by the nature of the duties they have to perform.

6. Baboo Kunjalal says that innocent persons are often sent up to the Sessions Courts for trial, and their acquittal, in many instances, is due to the Judge and Jury. Baboo Kunjalal ought to have based his whole evidence about criminal trials on this view, and he could not then have blamed, as

he has done, the Judge and the Jury for the acquittal of accused persons. Bad Judges and bad Jurors rather convict the innocent than acquit the guilty.

7. The writer has learnt from many Deputy Magistrates, high in the service, and from many others who are now retired, that District Superintendents of Police often compel Deputy Magistrates to commit *asamis* to the Sessions Courts, and that in this matter they are aided by the Magistrates. He knows many persons who, unable to tolerate such unjust interference with their acts by Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police, gave up their Deputy Magistracies in disgust. The fact is, failure of criminal justice is due not to the Judge and the Jury, but to the Police and the Magistrate. The Jury system is faultless, though the method of selecting jurors may be open to objection. But even with jurors thus faultily selected, there is more of conviction of the innocent than of acquittal of the guilty. That the officials of Government express themselves dissatisfied with the working of the jury system simply is because they are *zulmbaz* (oppressive) and fond of prestige.

Referring to Mr. Ryland's evidence, the writer observes as follows :—

1. The writer agrees with Mr. Ryland that instead of promoting them to the Subordinate Executive Service, deserving police officers should be given promotion in their own department. He also agrees with Mr. Ryland in objecting to Baboo Kunjalal's view that none but those who have obtained University degrees should be appointed to high posts in the police service. Any man of good parentage and possessing learning and intelligence should have a claim on that service.

2. The writer is not at all surprised that Mr. Ryland should regret the smallness of the number of Europeans employed as Deputy Magistrates and Criminal Judicial Officers. As a European, he must regret this. But the view expressed by him before the Commission that an increased number of Europeans in the Subordinate Executive Service will be a benefit to the country is open to serious objection, however palatable it may be to the European Magistracy.

3. That Mr. Ryland should have expressed sympathy with his countrymen is only natural and pardonable. But he ignored the truth when he said that Europeans have not the same facility of entering the public service as the natives. As a matter of fact, incompetent Europeans are often put over the heads of able native officers.

Referring to Mr. Gomess's evidence, the writer observes as follows :—

1. Mr. Gomess expressed himself dissatisfied with the smallness of the number of Eurasians employed in the Subordinate Executive Service. But he gave no answer to the Hon'ble Raja Peari Mohan's question whether natives or Europeans and Eurasians make better Deputy Magistrates. He was certainly very discreet in not answering so inconvenient a question.

2. Mr. Gomess's statement that natives often show a preference for European and Eurasian Magistrates by their anxiety to institute suits in their Courts is not at all true. The truth seems, in fact, to lie the other way. The number of European and Eurasian Deputy Magistrates is small, and if Mr. Gomess's statement had been true, then there would have been great dissatisfaction in the country, and consequently widespread agitation for the increase of their number. But there never has been such agitation.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

8. A correspondent of the *Sudhakar*, of the 26th December, says that the Senior Deputy Magistrate of Bogra, whilst taking down the evidence of a woman the other day, did not hesitate to remark that the woman was smelling like a

woman who has a Mussulman paramour. The Babu cannot also tolerate the offensive smell from the mouths of Mukhtars, and he does not therefore allow them to come near his table. But the greatest fault of which the Babu is guilty is that he often draws out confessions from the accused people by holding out to them false hopes of light punishment.

9. A correspondent of the *Cháruvartá*, of the 29th December,

CHÁRUVARTÁ,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

A new munsifi in Vikram-pore.

approves of what was recently said in the same paper regarding the concentration of munsifis (see Report on Native Papers for 3rd January, paragraph 6), and says that the present arrangement is proving very inconvenient to the people of Vikram-pore. The correspondent therefore wants a munsifi near the Srinagar thana.

10. The *Pratikár*, of the 2nd January, says that Sir Auckland Colvin

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

Trial of small suits by Honorary Judges.

has done the North-Western Provinces a service by proposing the trial of petty suits by honorary village Judges. This will be a great boon to the people by reducing the expenses of law-suits which have now become so heavy as to be almost ruinous to the country.

11. The *Grámvási*, of 5th January, expresses itself dissatisfied with the way in which the Deputy Magistrate of

GRAMVASI,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

The Deputy Magistrate of Uluberia.

Uluberia is doing his tour in the mofussil. His predecessors, before they started on tours, not only gave public notices informing people of the dates on which and the places where they would hold their courts, but also held their courts in strict accordance with those notices. But the present Deputy Magistrate gives his notices sometimes orally and sometimes in writing, without ever thinking of conforming to them. One day in the month of November he said in open court that he would hold his cutchery at Bowrea from the following day. The suitors waited for him at Bowrea on the appointed day, but he himself did not enter appearance on that day. They waited for him there for four or five days more but he did not turn up at all. Another day in the same month he gave notice that from the following day he would hold his cutchery at Bowrea for ten days. But after holding his cutchery there for three or four days, he suddenly changed his mind, and said that he would next hold his cutchery at Mahisarakha. All this causes immense trouble to suitors.

(d)—Education.

Mahomedan education.

12. The *Hitákari*, of the 29th December, has the following :—

HITAKARI,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

The system of education now prevalent in Bengal may be good for the Hindus, but it has been a failure as regards the Mahomedans. A Mahomedan must be taught English for earning his bread, Bengali for performing his domestic duties, Urdu and Persian for maintaining his position in society, and Arabic for keeping up his religious life. That cannot, therefore, be a right educational system for the Mahomedans in which all these languages are not fairly balanced. The present degeneracy of the Mahomedans is owing to the undue prominence which is given in the present educational system to one language, English, to the disregard of the others. This also explains the small regard in which the present educational system is held by the Mahomedans. It is true that arrangements for teaching Arabic, Urdu and Persian exist in the madrassas and makhtabs; but not even five per cent. of the Mahomedan students take up these languages. Government may, indeed, appoint strong inspecting staffs to keep watch over Mahomedan education, and it may also grant special scholarships for their encouragement, but all this will fail to give a sound education to the Mahomedans, so long as the system of education itself is not placed upon a sound basis. Place the system on a sound basis and compel Mahomedans to educate themselves.

Compulsion will be necessary at the outset, for the degeneracy of the Mahomedans has proceeded too far to allow of their progressing of their own accord. This is the one only way of ameliorating the condition of the Mahomedans.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

13. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 30th December, says that the English Government has done much for the spread of education in this country, and people are very much thankful to it on that account. But intellectual progress is not the only thing which should be looked to. The Government should look both to the physical and to the intellectual progress of the people. Now the physical deterioration of Bengalis is well known, and there are indications that in the course of time all other Indian peoples will be brought down to the physical level of the Bengalis. If steps are not, therefore, taken to arrest this growing tendency towards physical degeneration, the people of India will become extinct as a nation at no distant date. It therefore behoves Government to give the people of India such education as will destroy this tendency, and enable them to regain their ancient physical prowess. Everything else that the Government is doing for the advancement of the Indian people will count for nothing if they are allowed to be physically dwindled.

SAKTI,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

Moral education of Hindu youths.

14. The *Sakti*, of the 30th December, has the following:—

If Hindu society is to regain its old moral tone, the Hindus should be made to read the Ramayana, the Mahabharat, the works of Manu and the other shastras, and thus imbibe the noble principles of life and conduct inculcated therein. Moral training of this kind will be more effective in restoring to Hindu society its healthy tone than all the declamatory speeches of the speech-makers, and their study of one such character as Vishma, one of the heroes of the Mahabharat, will be a far better instruction for Hindu boys than all the works of Mill and Comte. Hindus should be made to love their own shastras and follow their precepts. Those who attempt to teach Hindu boys the morality which condemns, say, caste and early marriage, show them in fact the high road to the most unrestrained license. The lecture delivered in the Town Hall the other day by Babu Pratap Chandra Mozumdar was on this line; and the writer fails to see the good that will be done by such lectures. It is to be regretted that a genuine Hindu like the Hon'ble Dr. Gurudas Bannerji has joined the movement which has been set on foot to teach Hindu youths morality on the objectionable line indicated above.

SAKTI.

15. It appears to the same paper from the Education Report of Government that the public expenditure on high education is being gradually curtailed. The expenditure on this head in 1884-85—was Rs. 3,27,000 and in 1888-89 only Rs. 2,55,000. This leads people to believe that it is Government's intention to withdraw gradually from the work of education. And the belief cannot be said to be an unfounded one. For it is clear that Government intends to make over charge of all the district schools to the District Boards, the Burrissal Zillah School having been already handed over to the District Board. The Berhampore College has been made over to Maharani Swarnamayi, and the Director of Public Instruction has raised the question of the abolition of the Hugli and Rajshahye Colleges. It is very unfortunate, indeed, that Government should grudge the people even the small expenditure it now incurs for their education. The withdrawal of this small amount will not certainly improve the financial condition of Government. And it is still more unfortunate that the highly paid Director of Public Instruction, whose duty it is to make the best arrangements possible for the education of the people and to look after the schools and colleges in the province, should himself advise the Government to curtail its educational

expenditure, and thus to lay the axe at the root of high education. Surely the Director of Public Instruction was not appointed to advise Government on the subject of retrenchment of expenditure.

16. The *Sáraswat Patra*, of the 3rd January, is perfectly satisfied with the list of text-books for the minor and middle vernacular examinations of 1893. The able Director of Public Instruction, Sir Alfred Croft, is thanked for this list in which there is not one bad book. A knowledge of the history of England, the home of the ruling race, is necessary to the Indian's success in life. It is therefore a matter of rejoicing that the History of England has been included in the course.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

17. The same paper can by no means approve of the proposal to afflict the candidates for the examinations of the Calcutta University by increasing the examinations fees. Many candidates find considerable difficulty in paying the present fees. It is strange that when the poverty of the University is being pleaded as a reason for increasing the examination fees, proposals are also being made to appoint paid lecturers.

SARASWAT PATRA.

18. The *Samáj-o-Sáhitya*, of the 4th January, has the following on the indiscriminate selection of text-books by the Central Text-Book Committee:—

SAMAJ-O-SAHITYA,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

The third part of Babu Akshay Kumar Dutta's Charupatha is no way deficient in literary, scientific and moral merit, and has indeed few equals in Bengali literature, and yet it has been made to make room for Sasi Babu's Charubodh, which is only an inferior copy of it. No one will contend that *Sitar Banabas* and *Ramer Rajyabhishek* are books of equal merit, and yet they have been treated as equal. *Swasthya Siksha* by Bharat Banerji and *Sarir Palan* by Dr. Jadunath Mukharji are by no means books of equal merit. The former is only a wrong imitation of the latter, and yet it has been named as an alternative text-book. Babu Radhika Prasanna Mukharji's *Swastha Raksha Pravesika* is only a copy of Dr. Jadunath's *Saral Sarir Palan*. Instances of bad selection and grouping of books like these may be indefinitely multiplied.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 4th January, draws the attention of the educational authorities to the decline of primary education in the district of Pubna.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

20. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 5th January, says that there was great confusion in connection with the recent election of Fellows at the Senate House, Calcutta.

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

Voters had to wait for a long time before their turn for voting came. The delay was caused by the Registrar's admitting only one voter at a time into his room. It would have been better if the voters had been permitted to send the names of their nominees to the Registrar in covers.

21. The *Dainik-o-Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 5th January, says that the recent election of two young men as Fellows of the Calcutta University, in preference to such able, elderly and experienced men as Dr. Kalipada Gupta, Babu Upendranath Mitra, Babu Baidynath Bose of the Metropolitan Institution, Babu Nilkantha Majumdar of the Presidency College, the first Premchand Roychand scholar Babu Asutosh Mukerji, Babu Nilambar Mukerjea and the experienced Deputy Magistrate, Babu Chandranarain Singh, is no more than was to be expected. The entrusting of hot-headed young graduates with the election of Fellows could produce no better result. It is easy to see that Sir Alfred Croft will be able to maintain his ascendancy by making this electioneering affair something like children's playing with toys. Such elections will still more diminish men's respect for the University.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

22. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 5th January, says that the number of ignorant men is gradually increasing in this country. Things were formerly

English education.

better in this respect than now. The country now swarms with semi-educated ignorant men. The proportion of ignorant men in the country now is 200 per cent. This class of semi-educated ignorant men, which is formed for the most part of plucked Entrance candidates, is a very dangerous one. The fact is, the English have not come to this country to make men of the Indians, but to make donkeys or even worse animals of them. There are so many things to prove this. They are making drunkards of the Indians by making them drink liquor, and they are depriving them of the favour of the Goddess of Fortune by making them smoke hemp. They are also depriving the people of their wits by teaching them a few pages of English. The man who acquires only a little learning is as dangerous as a drunken lunatic. Crass ignorance is better than small learning. Small learning makes a queer sort of thing of a man. Unfortunately, the number of semi-educated men is increasing in this country, and with the increase in their number all sorts of scandals are increasing. These men commit every sort of wicked deed. They seldom do a good thing. In fact, it is now become perfectly useless to read for the Entrance examination. Parents in this country now educate their sons only because they have become vainglorious, and cannot judge of the future result of education. This is the reason why the whole population is becoming ignorant. Society should attend to this matter. The Government is an avaricious one and as such has a terrible disposition. It is selling education in this country like liquor, *guli* and hemp.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

23. The same paper says that that country can know no prosperity with whose people the Government does not sympathise. There is a class of crooked and narrow minded Englishmen who have resolved upon preventing the Government from sympathising with the people from a fear that Government's sympathising with them might bring to an end the happy rule in which they are making fair foul and foul fair. But these Englishmen should know that it is such oppression that lost England America and diminished her ascendancy in Australia. God holds his balance of justice evenly, and the day shall come when this happy rule of these narrow-minded Englishmen must come to end.

Urdu-teaching for Mussulman students.

The Hindus are now becoming powerful for various reasons, and that means that their eyes are opening, which is the reason that they are now able to judge what is good for them and what is not. And Government is therefore adopting every possible precaution with a view of preventing any difficulty or danger which they may create by uniting themselves with the Mussulmans and other Indian races.

It is a law of nature that a common language and a common religion promote sympathy between men. The cunning English Government knows this, and it is therefore adopting measures which will prevent a union of Hindus and Mussulmans. One of the measures adopted with this object is preventing the Mussulmans from speaking the Bengali language. It has been ruled that Mussulman students should read Urdu instead of Bengali books, and Urdu books are accordingly being prepared for this purpose.

It is not known who has counselled this, but it will result in nothing, save waste of money. No one is responsible for the expenditure of Indian money, and one can therefore do with it anything one pleases. This is why the officials do whatever they take into their head to do. The proposed scheme about Mussulman students reading Urdu instead of Bengali books will be a failure; for there are village schools in which there is not a single Mussulman student, and Bengali has become the mother-tongue of the

Mussulmans of Bengal. There are, in fact, Mussulmans who can speak and write Bengali better than many Bengalis. Bengali has become familiar to them, and they will have great difficulty in learning Urdu. Government will see that, in consequence of this new arrangement, the few Mussulman students who are now reading in the schools will cease reading there. The villagers are already ill able to pay the salary of a Bengali pundit, and they will find it an impossibility to keep an Urdu teacher too. Government may grant aid for Urdu reading. But not even such aid will avail much.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

24. The *Sudhakar*, of the 26th December, says that the late municipal elections have given wonderful indications of restored unity among the Mahomedans.

SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1890.

Indeed, the Mahomedans appear to have risen from their sleep and to be inspired with new hope and new energy. Five years ago there was not a single Municipality in all Bengal which counted a Mahomedan among its Commissioners; but since last year the Mahomedans appear to be taking an interest in municipal matters. In the late elections in Hughli one of the two Commissioners returned was a Mahomedan. And what is matter for singular congratulation to the Mahomedan community, not one Mahomedan in Hughli voted for a Hindu Commissioner, as was the case in Santipore last year. The Hindus are surprised to see such unity among the Mahomedans.

25. The *Hitakari*, of the 29th December, says that the voters in the late municipal election in Kushtea having been for the most part illiterate men, and the object of the election not having been clearly explained

HITAKARI,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

to them, failed to exercise their voting power in an independent manner. The success of the new municipal administration in Kushtea will, therefore, depend entirely on the choice of Commissioners for Government nomination. A report is current that lawyers will, in future, be excluded from the Municipality. There will be no harm in excluding lawyers if worthier men can be had in their place. But if better men cannot be had, the exclusion of lawyers will be fatal to Municipal Government. The Deputy Magistrate will do well to publish the names of the persons who are likely to be nominated by Government before they are forwarded for sanction, as the public will then be in a position to discuss the fitness and ability of the nominees before their appointment. The Government nominees may be chosen from among the undermentioned gentlemen :—

Babu Durga Charan Biswas.

„ Bhuban Mohan Ray.

„ Ramgopal Dutta.

„ Dwarika Nath Pal.

„ Bankabihari Nandi.

„ Mahammad Chand Pramanik.

„ Munshi Fazle Rahman.

Baboo Harish Chandra Ray did the last Municipality yeoman's service in the office of Chairman, and he ought to be reappointed to that post.

A correspondent of the same paper says that there was some irregularity in the publication of the names of the candidates for Ward No. 1, and undue influence was exercised upon voters in Ward No. 2.

26. A correspondent of the same paper greatly regrets that a sufficient number of candidates for Commissionerships were not forthcoming at the late municipal elections in Tangail in the Mymensingh

HITAKARI.

The late municipal election in Tangail in the Mymensingh district.

district. Nothing could prove more completely the worthlessness of the people of that sub-division.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

27. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 30th December, hopes that before

Nomination of Commissioners for
the Burdwan Municipality.

sending to Government his list of names for nomination as Municipal Commissioners of Burdwan, the Magistrate of Burdwan will

take into his consideration the names of the undermentioned gentlemen :—
Babu Ram Lal Mukerji, pleader, Babus Sasibhushan Basu, Tára Prasanna Mukerji, Sajani Kanta Chatterjee, Babu Annada Prosad Mukerji, doctor, Babu Ganga Narayan Mitra, Babu Mahendra Nath Gupta, Babu Kali Kumar Kundu, engineer, Babu Bumu Charun Pramanik, Babu Nityagopal Singh, and Syed Abdul Salam, zemindar.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

The last municipal election at Santipore.

28. A correspondent of the same paper expresses himself dissatisfied with the manner in which votes were secured at the late municipal

election in Santipore.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

29. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette*, of the 2nd January,

Municipal mismanagement at Konnagar within the Serampore sub-division of the Hughli district.

complains of imperfect municipal supervision at Konnagar, a village within the jurisdiction of the Serampore Municipality. The roads at

Monipará, a place within the village, are very bad, and some of them are not provided with side drains. The drains are also full of jungle, and in some places almost on a level with the roads. There are three or four very bad ponds in Monipará which should be filled up, as their use produces disease.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Second fortnight of
Agrahayan.

30. The *Kasipur Nivási*, of the second fortnight of the month of

The municipal election at Kasipur in the district of Burisal.

Agrahayan, says that the result of the recent municipal election at Kasipur in the district of Burisal is very hopeful for the cause of

Local Self-Government. On the whole, the voters have made a legitimate use of their privilege, and even the meanest among them has learnt to realize the respect due to himself. Freedom is based on self-respect.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

31. Referring to the rumour that Sir Charles Elliott has expressed an

Sir Charles Elliott and the Orissa settlement.

intention of being personally present at the settlement of the land revenue in Orissa, the *Sanjivani*, of the 3rd January, says that

when in the North-Western Provinces His Honour expressed it as his opinion, in a report written by him in connection with land settlement, that half the Indian peasantry could not get enough to eat all the year round. The Orissa peasantry may, therefore, expect to be relieved of a great part of their misery if Sir Charles in his inspection of their settlement keeps in mind what he himself wrote some years ago.

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

32. The *Som Prakash*, of the 5th January, is glad to learn that the

The Lieutenant-Governor and the Orissa settlement.

Lieutenant-Governor will shortly visit Orissa in order to acquaint himself personally with the way in which the settlement operations are

being conducted in that province. His Honour's object is to look to the convenience and well-being of the people in general, and not to further the interests of any particular class. This is no doubt a praiseworthy intention. His Honour's administration will be a model for imitation if he personally superintends in this way the working of any department under him.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

33. A correspondent of the *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 5th January, complains that railway carriages

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

Railway grievances.

are overcrowded with passengers, that tickets to distant stations can not, in all cases, be had at the first station from which a passenger travels, and that passengers are compelled to engage and pay railway coolies for removing luggages even when they can get this done by the men in charge of the conveyances they have hired.

34. A correspondent of the *Kasipur Nivási*, of the first fortnight of the month of Pous, says that there are no good roads in Otampur, a village in the district of Burisal. In the month of Jaistha, 1296, the

Roads in a village in the district of Burisal.

villagers applied to the Local Board on the subject, and a member of that Board came to the village and wrote a report recommending the construction of roads there. They again applied to the Board on the 20th September last, but this request has not yet been granted. The attention of the Local Board is drawn to the matter.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
First fortnight of
Pous.

(h)—*General.*

35. A correspondent of the *Hitakarí*, of the 29th December, says that though the mail from Calcutta is received only once in the course of the day in Tangail in the Mymensingh district, letters, &c., are

The Tangail post-office in the Mymensingh district.

delivered by the peons more than once in a day. What may be the reason of this? There is also great want of punctuality in the delivery of the letters. The authorities are requested to direct their attention to the working of the Tangail post-office.

HITAKARI,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

36. The *Sahachar*, of the 31st December, says that Calcutta and its Suburbs now teem with mills and factories, and the smoke escaping from their chimneys has

SAHACHAR
Dec. 31st, 1890.

The smoke nuisance in Calcutta.

become a serious nuisance to the townspeople. The houses in the neighbourhood of these mills are perpetually covered with soot, and it becomes at times very difficult to protect even articles of food and clothing from its invasion. The law, as it stands, is powerless to cope with the nuisance, and cases brought against the owners of mills at Garpar and elsewhere have been dismissed by the Magistrates. In London the chimneys of mills and factories are now furnished with smoke-consuming apparatuses, which convert the smoke into water and allow only the steam to escape outside. It is very desirable that the owners of mills and factories here should be required to make use of some such apparatus. A law compelling them to take some such measure with the view of abating the smoke nuisance should be passed in the present session of the Bengal Council.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

37. The *Sudhakar*, of the 26th December, earnestly requests educated Mahomedans to explain the object of the Census to their illiterate coreligionists, as the

The Census.

latter generally misunderstand that object and throw great obstacles in the way of the Census officers getting accurate information.

38. A correspondent of the *Charuvártá*, of the 29th December, says that several respectable people have been enlisted as census enumerators in Sherepore in the Mymensingh district. The authorities

SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 26th, 1890.

The census in Sherepore in the Mymensingh district.

CHARUVARTÁ,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

have done very wrong indeed in holding out to these men, as an enticement, the hope of being appointed clerks in the census office, if they can perform their work satisfactorily. For among the enlisted enumerators are men who can afford to scorn such hopes of employment. It is enough that they must do the work which Government has chosen to impose upon them.

A large sum has been allotted for the census, and it is to be hoped that the enumerators will not be made to supply themselves with ink, paper, pen, light, and menials at their own expense.

Dacca Gazette,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

39. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 29th December, says that the report that Sir John Edgar will shortly retire has grieved the public of Bengal, because he has won the love of all by his good nature. Mr. Cotton is spoken of as his successor. At one time Mr. Cotton succeeded in winning the golden opinion of the native community by writing his "New India" and showing sympathy with them in other ways. He has, however, since lost that favour among a certain section of the public. Those who thought that he would serve the native community even at the cost of self-interest or the interest of his own countrymen have, of course, been disappointed in him, and are therefore speaking ill of him. But they should have done well to remember that no Englishman, however much he might sympathise with the natives, could be expected to sacrifice his own or his countrymen's interests in order to promote those of the natives. Mr. Cotton, with all his faults, which are not peculiarly his own, but are possessed by him in common with all his countrymen in this country, is a real well-wisher of the people of India. It would be the height of folly, therefore, to lose his sympathy by casting false aspersions on his character.

Dacca Gazette.

40. The same paper has the following:—Even in these gloomy days the unlucky sons of India will feel relief in assembling together after their profound sleep of centuries and in shedding tears of grief at the sight of their poor mother's miserable condition. That will be a noble spectacle indeed, their offering their everything in the service of their mother. Trodden under the feet of foreigners, the Indians had forgotten each other and done their mother the greatest wrong by plunging in civil strife. But now the 250 millions of Indians have come forward to sacrifice themselves for the deliverance of their mother-country, and all India, from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin, is resounding with the cry of "Victory to mother India." It really gladdens the heart to see the sight and hear the cry; and the benumbed Indian once more feels an electric thrill passing through him. Those who spoke ill of the Congress at the outset will now be astonished by its success, and will have good reason to condemn themselves.

Hitakari,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

41. A correspondent of the *Hitakari*, of the 29th December, writes as follows:—

I must say at the very outset that I am a Congress delegate. In the mofussil, most people do not know what the Congress is. They have never had the opportunity of learning what the object of the movement is, all the information they have gathered about it having been of a hearsay character. In fact, most mofussilites are frightened at the name of the Congress, and they deem it uncommon valour to be present at it. They see no good in a movement which is carried on against the wishes of the ruling powers. Hakim, deputy, daroga, jemadar, and folks like them, are the only powerful men in the eyes of the mofussilites, and are therefore held in great respect by them. The Congress has not the support of these officers, nay, it is disliked by them; the police is constantly watching every ordinary group or gathering of men, in order to hear how they talk about the Congress. This has inspired the minds of men

in the mofussil with fear regarding the Congress, and women are in particular dread of it. I am going to attend the meeting of the Congress. It is not Allahabad or Bombay or Madras I am going to; my destination is only Calcutta, where I go ten times in a year. On any other occasion, there would have been no objection to my going there. But now that I am going there to attend the Congress, all my family look sad. They fear danger to me from my presence at the Congress, because the Congress has not the support of the officials. And their fear is increased by reason of the zemindar of the place having refused to lend his hall for a meeting in connection with the Congress. The zemindar refused his hall on the ground that no meeting in which officials were not present could be of any importance. The news of this refusal of a wealthy zemindar to have anything to do with the Congress spread among the women of the place, and they are in actual dread of the consequences attending the Congress. At last, however, at the instigation of my wife, who was of opinion that it was better to share the danger which thousands of people were incurring by joining the Congress, than live a life of abject dependence on the rich and the powerful, I made up my mind to come down to Calcutta.

42. The *Behar Bandhu*, of the 30th December, says that the Bayley Memorial Fund, which has been mostly raised from the Behar zemindars, should be applied for the benefit of the Behar poor, and not to the erection of a statue of Sir Steuart Bayley.

BEHAR BANDHU,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

43. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 30th December, says that great confusion prevails at Ichhapur and Rayna, in the district of Burdwan, in the matter of putting numbers on houses for census purposes. Different houses which can be entered by the same door are being included in one number, while different numbers are being put on the door of the same house. Sometimes shops and boitakkhanas are being included in the same number as dwelling-houses. At Sahajpur, houses in the Chandrupur and Gopalbari quarters are not being numbered, while houses in Julalpur and Narayanpur, which form no part of Sahajpur, are being numbered as houses in Sahajpur. The attention of Government is drawn to irregularities of this nature. As the persons who were employed as enumerators on the last occasion were paid no salaries, many of them are now unwilling to serve as enuemrators. These men should therefore be given some remuneration. They should also be given certificates as a further inducement.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 30th, 1890.

44. The *Sahachar*, of the 31st December, makes the following remarks on the second day's proceedings of the last session of the National Congress:—

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 31st, 1890.

As in other years, so also in this year, the sub-committee of the Congress framed the resolutions which were to be put to vote. But as the papers containing the resolutions were published late, many of the delegates had no timely information of their contents. So when the resolution asking the Congress to approve Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill on the subject of the reconstitution of the Indian Legislative Councils was moved at the second day's meeting, Babu Bipradas Banerji, Pleader, 24-Pergunnahs, proposed that, considering the importance of the subject embodied in the resolution, the resolution should be postponed till the following Monday, and he also stated that if the resolution were moved after a careful consideration of other provisions of Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill, Europeans might feel persuaded to make common cause with the natives of the country, and thus to help them in gaining their object. But the President said that, as many speakers had already referred to the subject in their speeches, and the delegates had got ample time to

consider it, it would not be convenient to defer the voting. Now it is very improper to treat the deliberations of the sub-committee as final, and to ask the delegates to confirm them as a matter of form. The delegates should have timely notice of the resolutions upon which they will be asked to give their votes. The Congress should, in this matter, adopt the procedure which is followed in Parliament.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 31st, 1890.

45. The same paper says that the *Englishman* newspaper's charge against Sir Steuart Bayley was that, though a civilian, he did not give his first consideration to the interests of the civilian body to which he belonged.

The *Englishman* newspaper's attack on Sir Steuart Bayley.

His fault was that he looked first to the interests of the seven crores of people confided to his care, and did not connive at the delinquency of his civilian officials. The writer never thought that any one in these days could be guilty of such grossly shameless conduct as the *Englishman*. Both that paper and the *Pioneer* have already begun to laud the new ruler to the skies. This means that if Sir Charles Elliott is to steer clear of the mistake committed by Sir Steuart Bayley, he should completely identify himself with the members of the service, and rule the country accordingly. It is hoped that His Honour will not accept this bait, and that he will rule according to the spirit of the times. Sir Steuart Bayley appointed some natives of the country to Magistrateships and District Judgeships, and Sir Charles Elliott is expected to open this gate of promotion wider every year. If this gate is closed, there will be widespread agitation in the country in order to have Lieutenant-Governors imported from England. Sir Charles Elliott is an intelligent man and understands the signs of the times, and people expect only justice, unmixed justice, and no favour from him. The time for showing undue favours to particular sections of the community in the administration of the country is gone, and the new ruler of Bengal must be pronounced to have acquired his experience in vain if a consideration of the difficulties in which Sir Auckland Colvin finds himself by creating disunion between Hindus and Mussulmans fail to open his eyes.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHRA
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 1st 1891.

46. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 1st January, cannot believe that the Queen, as stated by Mr. Caine, is anxious to do such a wrong thing as abolish the ancient Hindu institution of child-marriage.

Mr. Caine on child marriage.

Nor can it believe, on the strength of his assurance that all Englishmen and English women are bitterly opposed to that system. Mr. Caine has threatened to move Parliament with the object of compelling the Indian Government to enact a law for the prohibition of child-marriage. It is clear that this is an idle vaunt. It is no wonder that the man who can inform the *Indian Daily News* that the Government of India has amended its excise law in consequence of the agitation made by him should declare that he will compel that Government to put a stop to child-marriage.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Jan. 1st, 1891.

47. The *Rungpore Dikprakash*, of the 1st January, says that the system of *begar* in connection with the census operations will be a great hardship to poor people with small education.

The Census.

Government has allotted a large sum for the census, and the whole of that sum should not be squandered in the travelling expenses of the big census officers. A portion of the allotment should be distributed among the poor people who will serve the State.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

48. The *Pratikar*, of the 2nd January, says that the public will no doubt be very much grieved at the action of Sir Charles Elliott in returning the Congress tickets. If the Government takes the Congress for a seditious movement, let it say so openly. But it dares not to openly declare it a seditious movement, seeing that it has secured the sympathy of many Englishmen, and that even

The Bengal Government and the Congress.

the Secretary of State has expressed himself in favour of political agitation in India. What does, then, the Government mean by thus cutting off its officials from the Congress, when it can neither declare it to be seditious, nor wholly refuse its prayers? If it is a seditious movement, how does the Government allow all its subjects indiscriminately to join it? The want of confidence in the people indicated by the Government's action is really to be regretted.

49. The *Banganivasi*, of the 2nd January, has the following :—

BANGANIVASI,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

Government and the Congress.

"Most powerful rulers as you are in this world, why do you oppress your subjects so cruelly? It is the ruler's duty to treat his subjects as his own children.

Why do you fail in that duty and frown on the infant Congress? This is not worthy of a sovereign, nor is it right conduct on the part of the British Lion. The subject in this case is an insignificant person compared with the ruler. He is always loyal to the throne of his sovereign, and he has never complained of the subjection under which he has been placed. The laws which have been given to him by his sovereign, and the rule which is exercised over him by his sovereign, have always been regarded by him as something divine. He always prays for the safety of his sovereign and for peace and happiness under his sovereign's rule. And the Congress is only a creation of loyal subjects like him, and consists only of loyal subjects. They are not in rebellion against their sovereign; they have not met in the monster pavilion in the Tivoli gardens in order to raise an army in the name of religion; the 'Great Puja' has not been performed with the view of pointing out to the native chiefs the imperfections and the despotic character of British rule; nor have Indian peoples of various religions, wearing various garments and pursuing various callings, come together across the Bay of Bengal like so many Nihilists to concoct schemes for the subversion of the Empire. Neither have the Mussulmans, the Parsis, the Madrassis, the Bengalis and the Sikhs assembled under the huge pavilion in order to devise means for creating civil dissension among the people. Why then this expression of anger against the infant Congress? This Indian Congress is not like the Congress of the Americans; nor is it a seditious Congress which aims at the subversion of British rule. Why should, then, the authorities be so very angry with it, so very opposed to it? To-day's Congress is a poor Congress, a begging Congress. Five or six thousand poor subjects in tears are waiting on their sovereign only to beg. Beggars as they are, they want from their ruler nothing but kindly alms. Their only expectation is that if their prayer is not an unreasonable one, and the ruler has it in his power to grant them that prayer, he will generously gratify their wish by granting it. But if it be not in his power to grant that prayer, he will fail the beggars, and the beggars will be disappointed. And there the matter will end. No harm, no danger to the Government, can be seen in this. But if the Government still suspects the movement, and fears rebellion on the part of its subjects, and can place no confidence in them, it should openly demand to be informed of the object of the Congress. Government has done the people and the movement in particular great harm by not adopting this straightforward course. The authorities now entertain profound suspicions as to the real character of the Congress. The detective police have therefore been set on its back. And the detective police is to be found wherever there is the faintest smell of the Congress."

The writer doubts if the circular issued by the Bengal Government, prohibiting its officers from coming to the Congress even as visitors, was really based on any order of the Government of India. If there is really any such order, the Congressists should first inform the Government of the aim and object of the movement, and then move the Secretary of State for an explanation of this vengeful conduct on the part of the Government of

India. If the Government really suspect that the Congress will gradually develop into something like the American Congress, that the little spark will in course of time become a large fire which will consume the British Empire, let it say so openly."

BANGAVARI.
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

50. The same paper is glad at the mercy shown by Sir Charles Elliot in commuting the sentence of death passed on Mangal Misra, of Calcutta, to one of transportation for life. The public will ever remain grateful to His Honour for this act of mercy.

51. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 2nd January, hears from every quarter complaints of oppression in connection with the appointment of Enumerators and Superintendents to conduct the ensuing Census operations. The police, which is as dreadful as the myrmidons of Pluto, has been entrusted with the work of making these appointments, and it is said that it is carrying vagary to the extremest point in this matter. The work of enumeration has been imposed against their will upon guru-mahasayas, shop-keepers, and shop-keepers' sircars—men, who have not sufficient education to be able to fill in properly the Census forms. Again, instead of appointing competent leisured men like the pleaders and amla of the local courts and the local zemindar and their amla as Census Superintendents, the police has appointed to that office school-masters who are just now busy examining their boys, and busy people like them. This shows that the police does not know how to select men for performing public duties. The authorities are requested to see that attention is paid to the convenience of the public, and that right men are appointed to right offices.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

52. The *Samaya*, of the 2nd January, says that those who have read the proceedings of the Congress cannot justly charge its leaders with indifference to the agricultural and commercial interests of their country. The Congress is anxious to foster the commerce and agriculture of India. But can it do much in these matters in the present state of the country? So far as the industrial arts, agriculture and commerce are concerned, the different provinces of India are very differently circumstanced. Bombay and Madras, for instance, are more advanced in these matters than Bengal. Such being the case, the interests of one province are not the same as those of another. So it is impossible for all the different provinces of India to take united action in the matter of the arts, commerce and agriculture. Again, unity must precede united action, and the Congress is therefore very properly addressing itself in the first instance to the work of uniting the different Indian peoples. Racial unity established, united action in the matter of promoting industry will follow as a matter of course. But what prevents those who blame the Congress for neglecting the commercial and agricultural interests of India from promoting those interests themselves? If they admit that the Congress includes within itself all the leading people of India, then the writer will have nothing to say. But if they say that the Congress is an association of only a handful of Babus who are nobodies, then instead of abusing the Congress for overlooking the material interests of India, they ought themselves to lead the way and show the Congressists how the true interests of India should be advanced.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 2nd, 1891.

53. The same paper says that some time ago Government issued a circular prohibiting its officers from joining any political movement. But shortly afterwards, that circular was violated with impunity by high European officials of Government by attending the St. Andrew's Dinner, which is essentially a political gathering and where political questions are discussed. After violation of the circular by its European

The circular about Government
officers and the Congress.

SAMAYA

officers, the writer was anxious to see how Government would behave towards the Congress movement. Before the Congress met the Secretary to the Reception Committee of the Congress, sent seven visitors' cards to the Private Secretary to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, inviting His Honour and his household to attend the Congress as visitors. Thereupon the Private Secretary wrote in reply that in the face of the circular of the Government of India, His Honour and his household were unable to attend the Congress. Now, as separate seats were provided for visitors at the meeting of the Congress, there would have been no probability of their being identified with the supporters of the movement if they had accepted the invitation. At any rate, the circular should not have been interpreted in the way it has been. And supposing the circular demanded His Honour's non-attendance, did it also demand the non-attendance of the members of his household? It is also reported that the police, in many places, prevented people from giving subscriptions to the Congress. There is certainly nothing new in such conduct on the part of the police. But it cannot be believed that, in behaving in this way, the police acted under the orders of high Government officials.

54. The *Sáraswat Patra*, of the 3rd January, says that as Famine Relief Commissioner in Mysore, Sir Charles Elliott.

SARASWAT PATRA,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

Sir Charles Elliott achieved remarkable success and displayed great sympathy with the people. He is said to have often been moved to tears by the distress of the distressed people. The Bengalis too ask of Sir Charles nothing more than such a tear-drop of pity. If the Bengal's distress draws tears to Sir Charles Elliott's eyes, the Bengalis will be satisfied, and will always bless him with uplifted hands and joyful hearts. As Chief Commissioner of Assam, Sir Charles earned the blessings of the people of that Province and the approbation of Government by attending to its agricultural improvement, to its progress in education, and to the development of the Self-Government system in it. The writer prays that he may earn equal glory in Bengal. It is a matter of rejoicing that Sir Charles has inaugurated his administration in Bengal by an act of mercy. The writer thanks him for this, and is glad that he can hope for much good in future.

55. The *Sulabh Samáchar*, of the 3rd January, says that it is children and fools who are deceived by show and splendour. Men of mature years and experience should not allow themselves to be taken in by these. But it is to be regretted that the Indians have not outgrown such foolish fascination. How many among the Congress delegates who represented Calcutta were known men, and how many of them were fit to represent the metropolis? Who, again, elected the female delegates, and wherefore were they elected? The proceedings of the Congress were conducted in English. Do all these female delegates understand English?

SULABH SAMACHAR,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

Englishmen like Messrs. Schwann and Caine may be taken in by such outward show. But the Calcutta people will not be deceived by it. When the elections for Calcutta itself were so unsatisfactory, the mofussil elections must have been much more so. When these blemishes are removed people will hope for good from the Congress and recognise it as a really national assembly.

56. The *Bangavási*, of the 3rd January, has the following anent the last Congress :—

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

The last Congress.

1. The Congress is a public movement got up and conducted with public money, and yet the public were not allowed free access to its sitting. The Baboos discussed the question of the deliverance of their country, and yet no one was allowed to be present without paying an admission fee. The Baboos assembled for the purpose of advocating the cause of liberty, equality, and fraternity; but by requiring admission fees they showed a singular want of those principles in their own

conduct. Want of funds could be no excuse for exacting admission fees, for subscriptions were received from the public in aid of the movement. It is also very unreasonable that one who has paid a subscription should be again compelled to pay an admission fee.

2. The election of delegates this year was a very singular affair indeed. There were altogether 32 delegates to the Congress from Bengal. Of these 10 were from Calcutta, 2 from Dacca, 2 from Nuddea, 2 from the 24-Pergunnahs, and 1 from each of the remaining districts of the Province, except Chittagong, Noakhali, Julpigoree, Darjeeling, Rungpore, Khulna, and Bankura. There were no delegates from the last-named districts. Does Mr. Manomohun Ghose mean to say that there are no thinking men in these unrepresented districts, or that these districts are too insignificant to be noticed by the Congress? However much the Baboos may attempt to disguise and dissemble, there is no preventing the discovery of the truth.

3. The Bengal delegates, with a few exceptions, had almost nothing to do at the Congress. Most of them had come down to Calcutta to enjoy the Christmas holidays, and their whole business in Calcutta was to attend the Congress meeting and raise their hands there as occasion required during the day, and to make themselves merry at night. They did not even seem to know what they were about at the Congress. One delegate cut a very sorry figure indeed at Monday's sitting. He raised his hand, but when he saw that no other hand was raised he took it down; and he raised it again when the votes of the party opposing the motion were taken.

4. Mr. Ghosh said, quite like a lawyer as he is, that the Congress could only profit by hostile criticism. But it is well known that there is nothing of which the Congressists are so intolerant as hostile criticism. And that is the reason why they did not venture to put the Congress report in the hands of their enemies, and did all they could to prevent them from being even present at the Congress. The Congressists displayed great unwillingness and even fear to supply this very paper with a ticket for admission to the Congress, and that does not certainly mean that the Congressists are men who possess much moral courage, or can court hostile criticism. What has Mr. Ghose to say to this?

5. It was indeed a relief to hear Mr. Ghose say at last that the Congress was the representative, not of the masses, but only of the educated and thinking portion of the Indian community. Mr. Ghosh did not state specially who this educated and thinking portion of the community are, but it was clear from the tenor of what fell from him that the community alluded to by him is the English-knowing portion of the Indian community. Though itself a proof of the most egregious arrogance, this admission was still so much plain-speaking. But there are yet men in the Congress who will not admit that the Congress does not represent the masses, and a heterogenous mass like the Congress cannot, indeed, be free from such discordant elements. But the question which puzzles the public is who define the Congress rightly, those who call it the representative of the masses or those who call it the representative of the thinking portion of the community?

6. It is rumoured that the proposal to elect Mr. Gantz of Madras President of the Congress, and the actual election of Mr. Mehta as President, are acts which had for their object the conciliation of the Eurasian and the Parsi communities, which have held aloof from the Congress. But this object of the Congressists has failed, as neither of those two communities joined the Congress, in spite of the election of Mr. Mehta to the Presidentship.

7. On the second day the programme of business first handed to the audience consisted of only three resolutions. A few minutes later another programme was issued consisting of four resolutions; and later on a third programme was issued consisting of five resolutions. It is clear, therefore,

that most of the delegates had no previous knowledge of the resolutions which were to be moved, and that they had not time to reflect upon them. The first resolution had reference to Mr. Bradlaugh's new Bill. On Mr. Lalmohan Ghosh's rising to move the resolution at the request of the President, he was interrupted by Baboo Bipradas Banerjee, a pleader in the Judge's Court, 24-Pergunnahs, and editor of the *Sahachar*, who said that the resolution could not be moved as most of the delegates were ignorant of what it was about. But Baboo Bipradas was most summarily overruled by the President, and the resolution was moved. Baboo Bipradas, however, rose once more when the resolution had been moved and seconded, and said that it was very strange indeed that the resolution should have been brought up for discussion when the delegates did not even know what was contained in Mr. Bradlaugh's new Bill, and that not only he but several other delegates were very much displeased at this action of the leaders. He therefore asked for a postponement of the resolution till the Monday following, in order to give even a day only to the delegates for considering Mr. Bradlaugh's Bill. But the impatient Baboos could not wait a moment, and passed the resolution at once. Is not this another proof that the delegates were nobodies?

8. On the fourth day the fifth resolution asking Government to reduce the salt duty was moved. Baboo Devaprasad Sarvadhikari said that, instead of asking for a remission of the salt duty, the Congress should request Government to concede to the people of certain districts in India the right of manufacturing salt. But the dull-headed delegates turned a deaf ear to this excellent advice. Mr. R. D. Mehta, too, urged the delegates to give this suggestion of Baboo Devaprasad their most careful consideration, but to no purpose. The delegates were men who were unable to think. They had come to the Congress, puppet like, to raise hands when required and to give cheers. It was no wonder, therefore, that the really good proposal of Baboo Devaprasad was rejected. But Mr. Ghosh says that these delegates constitute the thinking portion of the Indian community!

9. The seventh resolution on the programme of business had reference to Sir Charles Elliott's conduct in returning the invitation cards sent to him and the members of his household. The resolution was moved by Mr. Ghosh and seconded by Mr. G. Yule. Mr. Yule very harshly censured the conduct of the Bengal Government *alias* Sir Charles Elliott in thus returning the cards; and the stupid crowd have not been slow in expressing by loud cheers their approval of what fell from Mr Yule.

57. The same paper is glad to learn that the sentence of capital punishment passed upon Mangal Misra, of Banstola Street, Calcutta, has been commuted to one of transportation for life by the new Lieutenant-Governor. This expression of kindness by His Honour has earned for him a good name.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 3rd, 1891.

58. The same paper has learnt that fever is raging violently in Hakama in Assam, and the want of a Charitable dispensary is keenly felt.

BANGAVASI.

59. The same paper has learnt that leopards are committing great havoc in the villages of Badu, Maheshwarpore, Kalyanpore, and others, in the Barasat sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs. No attempt has yet been made by the Government officers to kill the animals, and the Municipal Commissioners are busy canvassing for votes, and have, therefore, no time to look after the lives and property of the people.

Leopards in the Barasat sub-division of the 24-Pergunnahs.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI,
Jan. 3rd 1891.

60. The same paper has learnt that cholera is raging violently in Gogra within the jurisdiction of the Chandpore thana in Tipperah. Several deaths have already taken place. There are no physicians in the place.

BANGAVASI.

61. The same paper has learnt that leopards are committing great havoc in Hanskhali within the jurisdiction of the Maheshtala thana in the 24-Pergunnahs. Two cows and a lad aged about fourteen have already been killed by the beasts. All business is stopped. Great efforts are being made by some gentlemen of Maheshtala to kill the beasts, but without success.

BANGAVASI.

62. The same paper has learnt that large numbers of people are dying of cholera every day in Baraigram in the Nattore sub-division of the Rajshahye district. There is a sad want of medicine and medical aid.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

63. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 4th January, says that free trade is the bane of this country. But the English Government of this country loves Englishmen most dearly, and it will for that reason never realize the misery which this free trade is causing to the Indian people. The people of America have imposed import duties on foreign goods with the object of excluding those goods from their country. But here people must have goods brought from outside which they can produce in their own country. Salt, for instance, can be manufactured here, but Government will not allow this to be done. Oppression of this kind is possible nowhere except in this down-trodden India. If India had been under Indian rule, this influx of foreign goods, which forms so ruinous a drain on the country, would have been stopped. But the present rulers of the country are foreigners, and they will do no such thing. As the British merchants are the basis of the British administrative machinery, Government is compelled to hear what they say; witness the appointment of the Factory Commission, which has for its object the ruin of the Bombay cotton mills. Now, as it is certain that Government will not protect the Indian people from the hands of foreign traders, who are like Rakshasas, with their mouths opened wide in order to devour them, why do not the Indian people themselves devise means for their own protection? Government, surely, does not compel them to take foreign goods. Why then do they themselves take those goods and thus compass their own ruin? They should bear in mind that the greater the outflow of money from the country, the greater will its poverty be.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

64. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 4th January, says that as the English colonies enjoy self-government as well as the elective franchise, they manage thus own revenues and frame their own laws. This being the case, English goods do not find favourable markets there, for the country which looks to its own interests cannot help resisting the invasion of foreign trade. But though dissatisfied with the behaviour of the colonies in this matter, Englishmen are compelled not to resent it. But this behaviour of the colonies has opened Englishmen's eyes, and they are therefore anxious that the natives of India should not enjoy the elective franchise which has been productive of so much mischief elsewhere. The Congressists may therefore rest assured that their demand for elective councils is one that will never be granted. The Congressists should also do well to understand clearly that Englishmen will never reduce the Indian army or mitigate the rigours of the law and of the courts. Englishmen will in short do nothing which may have the effect of loosening their firm hold over the people of India. They will now and

then for appearance's sake loosen a screw here or a screw there in the administrative machinery, but that will ever remain substantially unchanged. If the Indian people clamour much too vociferously for reform, Englishmen will give them some concession in one direction, but they will take care at the same time to nullify it by withdrawing some concession previously made in another direction. India is Englishmen's zemindari, and Englishmen, like other zemindars, must first try to make their zemindari secure, and will then make such provision for the happiness and convenience of their ryots as may be consistent with the fullest accomplishment of their prime object.

The Bankoora disturbances.

65. The same paper has the following on the recent missionary disturbance at

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 4th, 1891.

Bankoora :—

On the night following the disturbance, the house in which the missionary school was located was burnt, and respectable Hindu gentlemen were therefore made special constables. This is sufficiently disquieting news. But the building in which a school for Hindu boys was located was burnt at the same time, and why were not the missionary gentlemen made special constables? Instead of exercising *zulm* and *zubrdust* with the view of keeping up the prestige of the Europeans, an attempt should have been made to put an end to the disturbance. The editor of the *Indian Daily News* says that if the Hindus of Bankoora are not checked it will be difficult for indigo-planters and missionaries to live there. The Rev. Mr. Cus. of Chota Nagpore went to fight some natives pistol in hand, and indigo-planters are also in the habit of doing the same thing. Is it for this reason that the editor of the *Indian Daily News* has placed the two classes on the same footing? But the editor need not, after all, be afraid on the score of the Hindus. He ought to know that the presence of one tiger or one lion in a forest is enough to terrify all the other animals there, and that if the latter combine and attack the tiger or the lion, it is they, and not the tiger or the lion, that are killed and devoured. Sahebs need not be afraid of the natives anywhere. Even the Thugs dared not to attack Sahebs. The editor of the *Indian Daily News* may therefore rest assured that no European will ever meet death at the hands of a Hindu. If you strike against the edge of a sword with your hand, you will only injure your hand and not break the sword.

66. The same paper is glad that the name of Baboo Rajkumar Sarvadhikari has been included in this year's Honour list. But the writer is sorry that Baboo Raj-

The New Year's Day honours.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

kumar has been honoured, not as a member of the native press, but as Secretary to the British Indian Association. It would have been better if Baboo Kalika Das Datta of Cooch Behar had been made a Dewan Bahadoor instead of a Rai Bahadoor, for it is in the capacity of a Dewan that he has won his good name. Dr. Lal Madhab Mookerjee has also been made a Rai Bahadoor. He is the President of the Medical Society with whose assistance Dr. Birch tried to ruin all medical practitioners who have no medical degree. Dr. Lal Madhub is an adept in the art of pleasing Englishmen.

67. The *Bengal Exchange Gazette*, of the 5th January, says that many newspaper editors are now being prosecuted and punished for defamation. The

The Government and Native Editors.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 5th, 1891.

punishment inflicted on the editors of the *Tribune* and the *Reis and Rayyat* for defamation has led many to believe, and not without reason, that judicial officers are resolved to punish editors somehow or other. It is not at all improbable that the English, who apprehend the inevitable loss of their Empire from the meeting of the Congress, and are as much frightened by meetings as babies are by bug-bears, and who have issued a confidential circular to prevent the holding of these terrible meetings, should try to punish newspaper editors. The native judicial officers in the mofussil have to act in deference

to the wishes of Government. On his transfer to another sub-division, a Bengali Deputy Magistrate received oral instructions to try cases impartially and with the greatest deliberation, since there were many English tea-planters in that sub-division. So whenever any complaint was made of oppression by those planters, he said that he could do nothing, as he had been instructed to be very impartial in deciding cases against the planters. Deputy Magistrates have often to punish persons against their will in cases sent up by the police, for unless they do so the police officers report against them and Government endorses the censure. It is natural that proud Englishmen should feel a desire to prevent editors, by means of punishment, from freely criticising public measures and exposing the misdoings and oppressions of Englishmen. This is why many haughty officials try to gag the press. The frequent convictions of native editors on the charge of defamation, such as that of the editor of the *Tuti Hind* of Meerut, of the *Punch* of the North-Western Provinces, of a Deccan editor for defaming the Political Agent, create the impression that Government is displeased with the native editors.

BENGAL EXCHANGE
GAZETTE,
Jan. 6th 1891.

68. The same paper, of the 6th January, says that formerly there was not so much litigation in the country as there is now; nay, people did not know how to

conduct suits and where to conduct them. But the English have introduced into India the light of western civilisation, and guided by that light the Indians are now in a fair way of ruining themselves and their country. The English say that they are establishing equality in this country, and they are right, for they have set about reducing high and low to one common level of beggary. What a noble policy of equality this! Verily it is equality which makes the Raja, like the famous Raja Krisnachandra, go about in rags and live under trees like the commonest *Dom*. So much for the equalising policy of the English.

Before the English rule, there were not so many laws in this country. When any dispute occurred, it was settled by the mediation of experienced and respectable men. But no such thing is possible at present. There can be no respecting of one man by another where the commonest *Dom* and the most learned pundit occupy the same level. There are now-a-days laws regulating the minutest affairs of life. There are laws prescribing how men should eat and sit and conduct themselves in the world, and it is whispered that laws will be soon passed prescribing how husbands should talk with wives and how fathers will caress children. How shrewd is the English intellect! It is uncommon good fortune for the Indians that such a god-like people have set foot on Indian soil.

KASIPURNIVASI,
Second fortnight of
the month of
Agrahayan.

69. The *Kasipurnivási*, of the second fortnight of the month of Agrahayan, reports the outbreak of cholera at Goila, Abhayasil, Bukul and several other places in the district of Backergunge. The death-rate from cholera amounts in some places to 75 per cent. of those attacked. The people of Goila, which is an important place, also suffer greatly from scarcity of water. The canal from Torki to the bazar at Goila has benefited only particular portions of the place. Drains should therefore be cut from the canal for the benefit of the whole locality.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

70. The *Paridarshak*, of the 29th December, quotes approvingly the telegram which has been sent to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy by the Sylhet Hindu Dhurma Sabha on the age of consent.

Dharma Sabha on the subject of the age of consent, but adds that the unwillingness of the Hindus to let Government interfere with their social institutions with a view of removing the evils connected therewith, imposes upon themselves the duty of eradicating those evils. And if that duty is not performed, it is the educated Hindus themselves that will be to blame for the cruel death of girls of immature years. The educated Hindu community should also take upon themselves the task of improving Bengali physique, which is enfeebled by cohabitation with girls who have not attained puberty.

71. The same paper says that the Extra Assistant Commissioner, Baboo Rajmohan De, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Nowgong, Assam. Baboo Rajmohan De, is conducting himself badly in Nowgong. Recently a petition has been sent up against him, which, if the allegations made in it be true, ought to move the Government to make an enquiry into the matter. But the present Chief Commissioner is a weak man, and nothing will probably be done. The petition contains among others the following charges against the officer in question:—

PARIDARSHAK,
Dec. 29th, 1890.

- (1)—He looks down upon the men who come to his court on business, and often uses abusive language towards them, and insults them in various ways.
- (2)—He takes up criminal cases for disposal at about 3 or 4 P.M., and detains the parties and the Court officers till 8 or 9 P.M. Many people have to eat their evening meal within the Court-house and to lie down there for the night.
- (3)—Parties are extremely inconvenienced by reason of no dates being fixed for the hearing of cases.
- (4)—In summary cases, he is never found to take down notes of the evidence given by witnesses. The sentences passed are, therefore, not generally commensurate with the crimes.
- (5)—He is seldom found to listen attentively to the examination of witnesses or to the arguments of pleaders in summary cases.
- (6)—A Bengali Brahman, named Surendranath Bhattacharyya, was charged by one Gunamaya Baruah with the theft of a watch. The accused confessed his guilt, but he was acquitted because the accused, like the Extra Assistant Commissioner himself, is a Bengali.

72. The same paper says that the *begar* system in connection with the Lushai expedition has become a real infliction, not only upon the labouring classes of Sylhet, but also upon the middle class gentry. People have left work in order to hide themselves from the public recruiter. Agriculture and the industries are therefore suffering greatly. The failure of crops in previous years, coupled with the *begar* system of the present year, has made the condition of the people most miserable indeed. Government should bear in mind that any oppression of the peasantry in particular is prejudicial to the economic condition of the country, and *begar* system is nothing if not oppression.

PARIDARSHAK.

73. The same paper says that Government's own Lushai experience should tell it that the prisoners from Sylhet, Sylhet prisoners on the Changsil road in the Lushai country. who have been sent to work on the Changsil road, are in danger of losing their lives any moment at the hands of the Lushais. What right had the Government to endanger in this way the lives of the men whom it has taken into custody with the object of improving their moral character, and not for the purpose of dealing with their lives as it pleases? If Government wanted labourers for the Changsil road, it

PARIDARSHAK.

ought to have brought labourers over from other parts of the country at any cost, instead of thus risking the lives of men whose lives it has itself taken charge of. Certainly it is not the intention of the authorities to save money by endangering the lives of these poor creatures. The Assam Government is entreated to order the recall of these men to Sylhet.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 10th January 1891.